

Message Text

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62

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 EB-11 COME-00

TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-20 STR-08 TAR-02 L-03 DRC-01 /121 W

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P 282155Z MAR 74

FM AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3144

INFO /AMEMBASSY QUITO PRIORITY 3282

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ETRD, EC

SUBJ: BANANAS

1. GUAYAQUIL AFTERNOON PRESS OF MARCH 27 CARRIED REPRINT OF "LA NACION" (SAN JOSE) STORY OF MARCH 25 CONCERNING GOCR ECONOMIC MINISTER KOGAN COMMENTS RE HIS RECENT MEETING WITH GOE PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ LARA. STORY CLAIMS THAT RODRIGUEZ LARA HAD PROMISED THAT ECUADOR WOULD NOT TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ITS LOWER EXPORT TAX AND INCREASE BANANA EXPORTS TO DETRIMENT OF CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES. KOGAN QUOTED AS STATING THAT "ECUADOR WILL NOT EXPORT EVEN ONE ADDITIONAL STALK OF BANANAS THAT COULD AFFECT THE PRICE ESTABLISHED RECENTLY BY PRODUCING NATIONS."

2. MORNING GUAYAQUIL PRESS OF MARCH 28, "EL TELEGRAFO" AND "EL UNIVERSO", CARRIED FRONT PAGE STORIES COVERING OFFICIAL STATEMENT BY NATIONAL SECRETARIAT OF PUBLIC INFORMATION WHICH SAID THAT PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ LARA EMPHATICALLY REJECTS CONTENT OF KOGAN'S REPORTED STATEMENTS. ARTICLE SAID THAT PRESIDENT HAD MADE NO COMMITMENT

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TO NOT INCREASE BANANA EXPORTS AND CONCLUDED WITH STATEMENT THAT GOE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO MAKE MOST ENERGETIC PROTEST AT MARCH 28 INAUGURAL SESSION OF MINISTERIAL MEETING IN BOGOTA BECAUSE OF THIS STORY AND OTHERS PUBLISHED IN CENTRAL AMERICAN PRESS. MINISTER ALSO INSTRUCTED TO PROCEED IN MANNER HE FOUND MOST CONVENIENT TO DEFEND ECUADOREAN NATIONAL INTERESTS BECAUSE THE GOE HAD BEEN REPORTED TO HAVE REACHED AGREEMENTS WHICH IT HAD NEVER MADE, NEITHER IN MEETING OF MARCH 20 IN QUITO WITH CENTRAL AMERICAN MINISTERS NOR ON ANY OTHER OCCASION.

3. ART CARTER, STANDARD FRUIT MANAGER IN ECUADOR, DISCUSSED PRESS ARTICLES WITH CONGEN MORNING OF MARCH 28. CARTER STATES THAT GOE REACTION TO "LA NACION" STORY FIRST PUBLIC MANIFESTATION OF GOVERNMENT'S INCREASING IRRITATION AT WIDE VARIETY OF PRESSURES PLACED ON ECUADOR BY CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY COSTA RICA, THAT BEGAN PRIOR TO PANAMA CONFERENCE.

4. CARTER MAINTAINS THAT ECUADOR WENT ALONG WITH PANAMA CONFERENCE NATIONS IN NAME OF LATIN AMERICAN SOLIDARITY. HOWEVER, ECUADOR WILL CEASE TO PLAY CENTRAL AMERICAN GAME WHEN HER NATIONAL INTERESTS BECOME ADVERSELY AFFECTED. THIS POINT WILL BE REACHED AT BOGOTA CONFERENCE WHERE ATTEMPT WILL BE MADE TO ESTABLISH MARKET QUOTAS.

5. CARTER BELIEVES HE HAS MADE HEADWAY IN CONVINCING MEMBERS OF GOE DELEGATION THAT PROPOSED EXPORT TAXES WOULD REDUCE U.S. DEMAND BY 50 PERCENT. CARTER CLAIMS THAT ECUADOR'S DELEGATION TO MEETING IN BOGOTA WILL ADHERE TO EXPORT TAX AGREEMENT REACHED IN PANAMA BUT WILL STAND FIRM AGAINST ANY QUOTA SCHEME THAT WOULD REDUCE BANANA EXPORTS WHEN NEW TAXES CAUSE DECREASE IN DEMAND. CARTER DEPARTS FOR BOGOTA MARCH 28 ON INVITATION OF GOE DELEGATES "TO BE AVAILABLE FOR TECHNICAL ADVICE IF NEEDED".

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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